

Speakers Bureau for the Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards 4.7

- Bureau information packets shall be available in Central Office upon request of the speaker.
- If a speaker is requested, the Field Coordinator, Executive Officer, PR Chair, or other Executive Committee member shall locate an appropriate speaker, with approval of one other person.
- Speakers Bureau Packet (Volunteer or Staff)

Script

Brochures: enough for audience

Fact Sheets: enough for audience

Applications: 1/3 or less of audience

Speaking Script for the Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards

Hello, my name is _____, and I serve on the Citizen Foster Care Review Board in _____ County for Judge_____.

As a Citizen Foster Care Review Board volunteer we review the cases of thousands of children who have been removed from their homes due to dependency, neglect and abuse.

These dedicated volunteers regularly review the case files of children who are in the care of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. They help insure that permanency for at-risk children remains the central objective of the courts and the cabinet by making recommendations.

Recommendations from our volunteers guide judges who must make critical decisions about placing children in safe, permanent homes.

The CFCRB operate within the Department of Family and Juvenile Services of the Administrative Office of the Courts in Frankfort. The AOC is the support arm of the Kentucky Court of Justice.

Our mission... is to ensure safe, permanent, timely placement of Kentucky children in out-of-home care.

Our Vision...

With respect to children in care: Ensure adequate and necessary services are provided to families and children with the utmost importance given to safety, well-being and permanency.

With respect to the judges we serve: Provide timely, accurate and sufficiently detailed information about children in care so as to promote knowledgeable permanency decisions.

With respect to CFCRB volunteers: Promote awareness and understanding regarding children's issues through educational opportunities at local, regional and state level.

With respect to the cabinet for Health and family Services: Provide meaningful, respectful feedback regarding paths to permanency.

Review boards are located in all 120 counties and are supported by a volunteer base of more than 800 dedicated people from throughout Kentucky. Each year volunteers conduct more than 20,000 reviews of nearly 10,000 children who have been removed from their homes and placed in foster care, in child-care facilities or with relatives.

The Kentucky General Assembly created the citizen Foster Care Review Boards in 1982 as a way to decrease the time children spend in foster care.

The volunteer reviews help ensure that children receive the necessary services while in foster care and are ultimately placed in safe and permanent homes.

Appointing & Training Volunteers

Those interested in volunteering must complete an initial six-hour training session, consent to a criminal record check from the AOC and Central Registry Checks with the Cabinet.

New Volunteers attend regional sessions that focus on:

- Department for Community Based Services procedures;
- Forms used in dependency, neglect and abuse cases;
- Court process;
- Mental health issues of children in out-of-home care
- Sample file review of the child's case with DCBS.

Once training is completed, a recommendation is made to the chief judge of the local District Court or Family Court for appointment. Judges appoint volunteers for three-year terms.

All volunteers receive a comprehensive handbook on the program and a verity of opportunities for continuing education.

The review boards usually meet once a month for approximately two hours. Each board consists of at least three members, with some boards as many as 12 members.

CFCRB volunteers give their time and efforts to advocate for the children in their communities. Volunteers come from various educational and professional backgrounds and have a deep compassion for children.

If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer I have brochures and applications with me today.

Please take one and thank you for your time.